

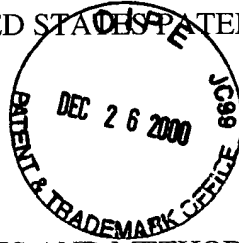
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
SMITH et al.

Serial No. 09/662,462

Filed: September 15, 2000

For: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND METHODS FOR
DETECTING CLINICALLY IMPORTANT
FUNGAL PATHOGENS



Atty. Ref.: 2551-49

Group:

Examiner:

HL/a
DT
01-10-01

* * * * *

December 26, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

- ✓ Amend the claims as follows:
- ✓ Claim 19, line 1, delete "any of claims 1 to 18" and insert --claim 1--.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended, without prejudice, to correct an improper multiple dependency.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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